WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for analyzing a computer application while it is executing without terminating or interrupting the application, comprising:

an application that is executing to be analyzed;

an administration client;

an object shell console executing on the administration client, the object shell console connected to the application so that it can extract information from the application without interrupting the application or causing the application to terminate; and

a graphical user interface presented by the object shell console for presenting at least a portion of the extracted information to the user and allowing the user to obtain additional detailed information.

2.   The system recited in claim 1, wherein the extracted information includes methods invoked by the application.

3.   The system recited in claim 1, wherein the extracted information includes variables names and variable values used in the application.

4.   The system recited in claim 1, wherein the object shell console determines a number of time a selected method is invoked.

5.   The system recited in claim 1, wherein the object shell console determines a length of time required for a selected method to execute.

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6.   The system recited in claim 1, further comprising a thread that connects the application to the object shell console.

7.   The system recited in claim 6, wherein the thread is created using Java RMI.

8.   A method for analyzing a computer application while it is executing, comprising the steps of:

      connecting an object shell console to an executing computer application;

      extracting information from the computer application without interrupting or terminating the computer application; and

      displaying the information to a user in a graphical user interface.

9.   The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of using a thread to make the connection.

10.   The method recited in claim 8, wherein the extracting step comprises the step of extracting one or more of a variable name, a variable value, an argument name, an argument value, number of times a selected method is invoked, an execution time of a selected method and a class.

11.   The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of displaying the information in according to a hierarchy.

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12.   The method recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one class in the graphical user interface; and

displaying at least one method corresponding to at least one of the at least one classes.

13.   The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

accepting a request from the user for more detailed information;

obtaining the more detailed information in response to the user's request; and

displaying the more detailed information to the user in the graphical user interface.

14.   A system for analyzing a computer application while it is executing, comprising:

a computer application executing on an application server;

a thread for connecting an object shell console to the computer application;

means for extracting information related to the computer application without interrupting or terminating the computer application;

means for displaying the extracted information to a user in a graphical user interface;

means for accepting a request from the user for additional detailed information; and

means for providing the additional detailed information to the user in the graphical user interface.

15.   The system recited in claim 14, further comprising means for determining an execution time of a selected method.

16.   The system recited in claim 14, further comprising means for determining a number of times a selected method is executed.

17.   The system recited in claim 14, further comprising means for extracting one of a variable value and an argument value from the computer application.

18.   The system recited in claim 14, further comprising means for providing a list of one or more methods comprising the application in the graphical user interface.

19.   The system recited in claim 18, further comprising means for presenting the information in a hierarchical fashion.

20.   A system for analyzing a computer application in real-time, comprising:

an application server on which one or more computer applications is executing, one of the one or more computer applications being a computer application to be analyzed;

an administration client;

an object shell console executing on the administration client that can attach to the application to be analyzed to extract information from the application to be analyzed; and

a graphical user interface in which the information from the application to be analyzed is displayed to a user.

21.   The system recited in claim 20, wherein the application to be analyzed is written in an computer language that is an interpreter.

22.   The system recited in claim 20, further comprising a thread through which the object shell is attached to the application to be analyzed.

23.   The system recited in claim 22, wherein the thread is created using Java RMI.

24.   The system recited in claim 20, wherein the information is one or more of a variable name, a variable value, an argument name, an argument value, an execution time of a selected method and a number of time a selected method is invoked.